

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2231

Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez

February 18, 2010

An act to add Section 25405.8 to the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2231, as introduced, V. Manuel Perez. Energy: Renewable Energy Action Team.

The Warren-Alquist State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to conduct an ongoing assessment of the opportunities and constraints presented by all forms of energy. The commission is required to encourage the balanced use of all sources of energy to meet the state's needs and to seek to avoid possible undesirable consequences of reliance on a single source of energy.

This bill would require the commission to convene the Renewable Energy Action Team, which would consist of representatives from the commission, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Natural Resources Agency. The bill would require the commission also to request the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management to participate in the team. The team would be required to develop and adopt the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan to identify renewable energy zones based on renewable energy development potential and environmental, wildlife, and conservation criteria. The bill would specify required components of the plan.

The bill would require the commission, in conjunction with development of the plan, to prepare or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, a master environmental impact report or a program environmental impact report that encompasses all of the renewable energy resources that may be developed in the renewable energy zones identified in the plan.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 25405.8 is added to the Public Resources
2 Code, to read:
3 25405.8. (a) The commission shall convene the Renewable
4 Energy Action Team, which shall consist of representatives from
5 the commission, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Natural
6 Resources Agency.
7 (b) The commission shall request the United States Fish and
8 Wildlife Service and the United States Department of the Interior
9 Bureau of Land Management to participate in the Renewable
10 Energy Action Team.
11 (c) The Renewable Energy Action Team, in consultation with
12 relevant federal, state, and local agencies, California Native
13 American tribes, renewable energy developers, environmental and
14 wildlife organizations, and other interested parties, shall develop
15 and adopt the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan to
16 identify renewable energy zones based on renewable energy
17 development potential and environmental, wildlife, and
18 conservation criteria.
19 (d) The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan shall
20 contain all of the following:
21 (1) Identification of areas most suitable and acceptable for
22 renewable energy development, including renewable energy
23 generation and transmission and renewable energy zones, and areas
24 most suitable for regional multispecies and habitat conservation.
25 (2) Development of mitigation incentive options in association
26 with renewable energy zones.
27 (3) Determination of appropriate permitting mechanisms under
28 the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (Chapter 10
29 (commencing with Section 2800) of Division 3 of the Fish and

1 Game Code) and the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
2 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.).

3 (4) Guidelines to assist solar and other renewable energy
4 developers in designing and siting renewable energy projects in
5 an environmentally suitable manner.

6 (e) In conjunction with the development of the Desert
7 Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, the commission shall
8 prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, a
9 master environmental impact report or a program environmental
10 impact report that encompasses all of the renewable energy
11 resources that may be developed in the renewable energy zones
12 identified in the plan.

O